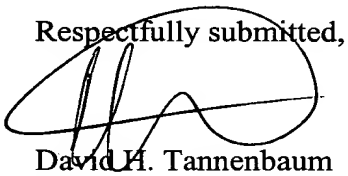
40. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein resiliency of the ferrules is utilized to apply a continual pressure between the ferrules and the sealing portion of the gasket following clamping.

REMARKS

The claims of the International Application have been amended to conform to United States patent practice. No new matter has been added.

Should the Examiner have any questions, he or she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



David H. Tannenbaum
Registration No. 24,745
Counsel for Applicants

Date: June 20, 2001

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800
Dallas, Texas 75201-2784
Telephone: (214) 855-8333
Telecopier: (214) 855-8200

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

3. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the gripping portion comprises at least two resilient structures defining bearing surfaces for gripping a pipe end.

4. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 3], wherein the gripping portion includes two T-shaped resilient structures.

6. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 5], wherein the gripping portion includes four or six arms spaced about the circumference of the gasket, each arm including a bearing surface for gripping a pipe end.

7. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 6], further comprising means for applying a pre-stress to the gripping portion so that the gripping portion applies a greater gripping force during use.

11. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 8 [to 10], wherein the or each member is manufactured from metal and acts as a stop between the pipe ends during use.

12. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim [8 to] 11, wherein the or each member is a metal wire.

13. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 8 [to 12], wherein the member extends through an arc of more then 270°.

14. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, further comprising:

locating means comprising a plurality of protrusions spaced about the gasket for positioning the gasket relative to the pipe ends.

16. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [claim 14 or] claim 15, wherein the sealing portion and the locating means are formed integrally.

17. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 16] claim 15, wherein the locating means are configured to self-center the gasket about a pipe bore.

18. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 17] claim 15, wherein the locating means comprise at least three protrusions defining bearing surfaces for seating in an annular recess in a pipe end.

19. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 18] claim 15, wherein the locating means include ten or more protrusions.

20. (Amended) A gasket as claimed [any one of claims 14 to 19] in claim 15, wherein the protrusions are bumps, truncated cones or stipples.

21. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 20] claim 15, wherein the protrusions have flat tops.

22. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 21] claim 15, wherein the protrusions extend from both sides of the gasket.

23. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 22] claim 15, wherein each protrusion is substantially round in plan.

24. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 23] claim 15, wherein each protrusion is substantially the same.

25. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any preceding] claim 15, wherein the gasket is manufactured from plastics material.

26. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 25, wherein the manufacture is achieved by [moulding] molding or casting.

27. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in claim 25 [or claim 26], wherein the plastics material is an engineering plastics material, such as PEEK.

28. (Amended) A gasket as claimed in [any preceding] claim 15, wherein the sealing portion comprises a bore surface for alignment parallel with a pipe bore and an adjacent raised surface perpendicular to the bore for forming a seal between pipe ends.

Claim 29 has been canceled by this Amendment.

30. (Amended) A pipe joint comprising:

two pipe ends defined by ferrules,

a clamp acting on the ferrules to close the joint

and a gasket [according to any preceding claim between the ferrules] comprising:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and

a gripping portion for gripping at least one of the pipe ends to hold the gasket in position,

wherein the sealing portion and the gripping portion are formed integrally.

32. (Amended) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 30 [or claim 31], wherein the gasket includes a metal stop against which the ferrules bear to prevent overtightening of the clamp.

34. (Amended) A pipe joint as claimed in [any one of claims] claim 30 [to 33], wherein resiliency of the ferrules is [utilised] utilized to apply a continual pressure between the ferrules and the sealing portion of the gasket following clamping.

Claim 35 has been canceled by this Amendment.

36. (New) A pipe joint comprising:

two pipe ends defined by ferrules,

a clamp acting on the ferrules to close the joint

and a gasket comprising:

a sealing portion for producing a seal between the two pipe ends and locating means for positioning the gasket relative to the pipe ends,

wherein the locating means comprise a plurality of protrusions spaced about the gasket for locating in the annular recess of a pipe end to position correctly the gasket relative to the pipe ends.

37. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein each ferrule includes an annular recess for receiving protrusions of the locating means.

38. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein the gasket includes a metal stop against which the ferrules bear to prevent overtightening of the clamp.

39. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 38, wherein the ferrules contact the sealing portion of the gasket before the stop, during clamping, thereby resulting in a sealing pressure being applied to the gasket.

40. (New) A pipe joint as claimed in claim 36, wherein resiliency of the ferrules is utilized to apply a continual pressure between the ferrules and the sealing portion of the gasket following clamping.